

is a reform which has long been mentioned as desirable, and yet one which no Legislature heretofore has enacted.

It is my deliberate judgement that the above Court reforms constitute improvement in the greatest degree and fulfill the pledges made to elevate the standards of the Judicial functions in the lower courts.

Because of its close relationship with the Judicial branch of the Government, the law which will effect much better results in the administration of parole and probation might be mentioned. This Administration measure will give Maryland for the first time a real parole system, under which its beneficial effects upon society as well as upon the individual offender can be thoroughly realized. Individual studies of prisoners and coordination of work among the Parole Department, the penal institutions and law-enforcing agencies are provided for and our State will now emerge from the class in which it has been placed as "backward" in the field of parole and probation.

Industrial Relations

There should be cause for genuine satisfaction over the passage of labor legislation at this session affecting relations between employers and employees.

With the full support and cooperation of my administration a bill was passed improving the set-up in the office of the Commissioner of Labor and Statistics and requiring this official to give full time to the performance of the important duties of this office. The object of this legislation is to insure to employers and employees alike—impartial administration of laws relating to labor and conditions of employment and to provide the most helpful assistance possible in the adjustment of disputes that arise from time to time between workers and their employers. The enactment of this bill represents the fulfillment of a campaign pledge to build up the Labor Department and increase its usefulness to the people of the State.

Another bill passed provided for re-organization of the State Industrial Accident Commission to reduce the number of Commissioners; to authorize the chairman to act as the administrative and executive head of the Commission and to have the final authority in all matters relating to the administrative work of the commission and its employees. The three associate members of the Commission are each authorized to hear and determine cases arising under the Workmen's Compensation Law, which will permit the prompt and expeditious disposition of every case. It will also make it possible to conduct more frequent hearings in various sections of the State and injured employees throughout the State will under this new law be able to obtain the compensation benefits to which they are entitled without the necessity of waiting until a majority of the Commission can find time to hold hearings in the sections of the State in which such injured employees reside.

The Workmen's Compensation Law has also been amended so as to provide benefits for those who contract occupational diseases by reason of their employment. This will greatly increase the number of persons who will receive the benefits of the Compensation Law. The enactment of this law is also in keeping with a pledge during the course of the last campaign and will operate for the benefit of a great number of employees who have heretofore received no protection under the Compensation Act. In the interest of minors, as well as for the general public, laws were passed providing for greater safety